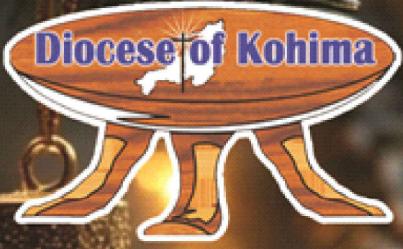
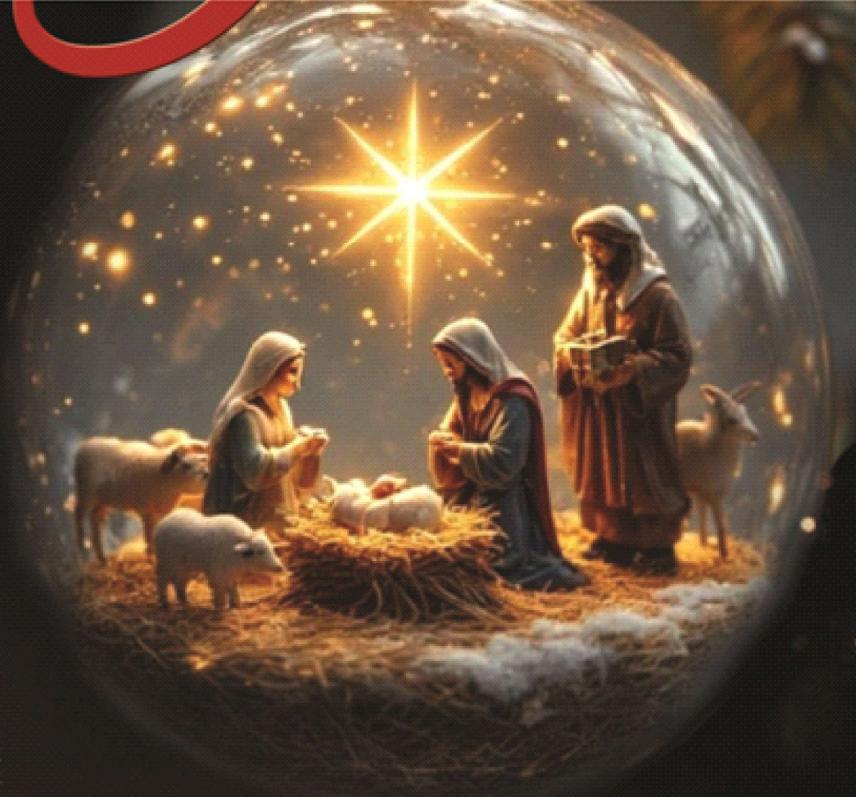


# Sharing



VOL. 32, ISSUE 4, BISHOP'S HOUSE, P.B. NO. 519, 797109, NAGALAND OCT-DEC 25



Merry  
Christmas



## *Upcoming Ordinations*



**Dn. Poji Thovitho Elvis SDB**  
to be Ordained on  
27<sup>th</sup> Dec., 2025 at  
St. Xavier Parish, Meluri



**Dn. James Chomithung Ezung,**  
to be Ordained on  
29<sup>th</sup> Dec., 2025 at  
St. Peter Church Longsa



**Dn. Dominic Keneisalie  
Rülho**  
to be Ordained on  
31<sup>st</sup> Dec., 2025 at  
St. Dominic Savio Parish  
Chiephobozou



**Dn. Avi Abraham Krocha SJ**  
to be Ordained on  
7<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2026 at  
St. Ignatius Parish Razeba



**Dn. David Zholia**  
to be Ordained on  
7<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2026 at  
St. Ignatius Parish Razeba



**Dn. Ngonyi John Dukru SJ**  
to be Ordained on  
7<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2026 at  
St. Ignatius Parish Razeba

# **SHARING**

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**(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)**

# Bishop's Programme

January - March 2026

## JANUARY 2026

1	Thu	Feast of Holy Mother of God; Kohima
2	Fri	Kohima
3	Sat	Kohima
4	Sun	Feast of the Epiphany,
5	Mon	Kohima
6	Tue	Kohima
7	Wed	Razeba: Priestly ordination of three deacons
8	Thu	To Tobi
9	Fri	Tobi: Golden Jubilee of Newman Hr. Sec. School, Tobi
10	Sat	To Kohima, Dimapur, Jalukie, CAN Triennial convention
11	Sun	Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: Jalukie, CAN Triennial convention
12	Mon	Kohima – Kerala, Medical check up
13	Tue	" "
14	Wed	" "
15	Thu	" "
16	Fri	Leave for Dimapur
17	Sat	Dimapur - Lakhuti
18	Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in the ordinary times: Lakhuti, Platinum Jubilee
19	Mon	Kohima
20	Tue	Kohima
21	Wed	Tuensang
22	Thu	Tuensang
23	Fri	Tuensang
24	Sat	Kohima
25	Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in the ordinary times; Angami Women conference
26	Mon	Republic Day
27	Tue	To Bangalore – CBCI, CCBI Plenary Assembly
28	Wed	" "
29	Thu	" "
30	Fri	" "
31	Sat	" "

## FEBRUARY 2026

1	Sun	" "
2	Mon	" "
3	Tue	" "
4	Wed	" "
5	Thu	" "
6	Fri	" "
7	Sat	" "
8	Sun	" " Holy Childhood Day (Collection to help the poor children in the world)
9	Mon	" "
10	Tue	" "
11	Wed	Return from Bangalore
12	Thu	Kohima
13	Fri	Kohima

14 Sat Chumoukedima – Golden Jubilee of Sr.  
Madeleine SCCG

15	Sun	Kohima
16	Mon	Kohima
17	Tue	Kohima
18	Wed	Kohima – Ash Wednesday
19	Thu	Kohima
20	Fri	Kohima
21	Sat	Kohima
22	Sun	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, Golden Jubilee Lotha community in Kohima
23	Mon	Kohima
24	Tue	Kohima
25	Wed	Kohima
26	Thu	Kohima
27	Fri	Peren : Pastoral visit
28	Sat	Peren

## MARCH 2026

1	Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent : Peren
2	Mon	Peren
3	Tue	Tezpur; NEIRBC meeting
4	Wed	" "
5	Thu	" "
6	Fri	" "
7	Sat	Pfutsero ; Pastoral visit
8	Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent: : Pfutsero ; Pastoral visit
9	Mon	Pfutsero ; Pastoral visit
10	Tue	Pfutsero ; Pastoral visit
11	Wed	Kohima
12	Thu	Kohima – meeting of the commission heads, regional animators and associations
13	Fri	Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC – 9. 30 am, Mt. Tabor Kohima) Consulters meeting
14	Sat	Tening; Pastoral visit
15	Sun	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent: Tening; Pastoral visit
16	Mon	Tening; Pastoral visit
17	Tue	Tening; Pastoral visit
18	Wed	Tening; Pastoral visit
19	Thu	Kohima, Feast of St. Joseph
20	Fri	Kohima
21	Sat	Kohima, FC meetings for the Budget
22	Sun	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent
23	Mon	Kohima
24	Tue	Kohima
25	Wed	Kohima; Senate (10.30, BH, Kohima), Priests meeting (Mt. Tabor), DF Meeting
26	Thu	Kohima, Recollection for Priests; Chrism Mass (3.00 pm Cathedral)
27	Fri	Kohima
28	Sat	Kohima
29	Sun	Palm Sunday
30	Mon	Kohima
31	Tue	Kohima



# Shepherd's Voice



## Dear Friends,

As we stand once again at the threshold of Christmas and the dawn of the New Year 2026, my heart is filled with gratitude and joy. This sacred season is always a time to pause, to remember, and to rejoice — to recall with affection those who have touched our lives with generosity and faith, and to renew our hope in the God who became one of us.

Christmas is a season when:

*We remember people with love that is enduring;*

*We bless them with prayers that are heartfelt;*

*We thank them for gifts that have transformed lives;*

*And we wish them every grace that makes life beautiful in God's sight.*

The year 2025, proclaimed as the **Jubilee Year with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope,”** invites us to renew our journey of faith with deeper commitment. The Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians, Kohima, has been designated as the **Jubilee Pilgrimage Church.** Many pilgrims from within and outside the Diocese have already visited and experienced the grace of this sacred year.

This year has also been marked by vibrant expressions of faith within our diocesan family. The **Regional Youth Convention** held from 27–30 June brought together over 2,000 young people from across Northeast India in a joyful celebration of faith, fellowship, and renewal. The **5th Edition of the Bishop Abraham Memorial Tournament** (30 September – 2 October) gathered more than 700 youth from our parishes, combining sportsmanship with spiritual enrichment. The **Commission for Education, Diocese of Kohima (CEDOK)**, organized an **Athletic Meet** that united hundreds of students from across the diocese in a spirit

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of healthy competition and oneness. The **Annual Eucharistic Procession** on 26 October was another moment of grace, when hundreds of faithful came together to publicly witness to our faith in the Lord present in the Holy Eucharist. Our diocesan associations — the **Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN), Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA),** and **Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM)** — have been active and steadfast in their apostolates. Numerous communities and institutions have celebrated Silver and Golden Jubilees this year — moments of thanksgiving that testify to God's enduring faithfulness across generations.

We also had our share of real challenges during the year. Our FCRA account is not yet renewed in spite of many attempts. During this year the monsoon was very heavy and prolonged, cutting off many roads even the National Highways, causing great hardship for transportation and communication. Two of our parishes had jeep accidents, which completed destroyed the vehicle, although miraculously there was no loss of human life.

Dear friends, Christmas is not merely an event to be celebrated but a truth to be lived — the truth that “*God so loved the world that He gave His only Son*” (John 3:16). Your love, faith, and generosity make this truth visible in our times. As we journey together into the Great Jubilee Year (2033), may we continue to be “*pilgrims of hope*,” bearing Christ’s light into every home and heart.

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* (Romans 15:13)

With my prayers and blessings.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil

Bishop of Kohima

Most Rev. (Dr.) James Thoppil  
Bishop of Kohima  
P. B. No. 519, Kohima  
Nagaland - 797 001, India



# From the Editor's Desks

## *“Marching Toward Bethlehem: The Soldier’s Discipline and the Athlete’s Endurance in Advent”*



*Dear Readers,*

As we enter the sacred season of Advent, the Church invites us not simply to prepare for a festive celebration, but to embark on a journey of deep spiritual renewal. Advent is a season of watchfulness, longing, and joyful expectation — a time of sacred training that shapes us into faithful disciples ready to receive Christ. Scripture beautifully compares our spiritual progress to the discipline of a soldier and the endurance of an athlete, reminding us that Christian life is an active pursuit, a mission that demands resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment.

St. Paul exhorts us with striking clarity: “*Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus*” (2 Tim 2:3), and again, “*Every athlete exercises self-control in all things... they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one*” (1 Cor 9:25). These images capture the heart of Advent. Like a soldier who keeps vigilant watch, we are called to remain spiritually awake and alert: “*Stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming*” (Mt 24:42). Advent trains us to sharpen our awareness of God’s presence, to resist complacency, and to renew our dedication to Christ’s mission.

The Fathers of the Church echo this call to readiness. St. Cyril of Jerusalem reminds us that our waiting is not passive, for “*we do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, far more glorious than the first.*” Our preparation, therefore, is both for the remembrance of Christ’s birth in Bethlehem and for His final coming in glory. This dual expectation demands disciplined hearts, cultivated in prayer, silence, and reflection.

Like an athlete who perseveres through strenuous training, Christians are invited to endure hardships with

courage. Spiritual maturity requires the willingness to be stretched and refined. St. Augustine’s words illuminate this truth: “*You grow by stretching. Do not run from the stretching that strengthens your soul.*” Through acts of charity, fasting, forgiveness, and self-denial, Advent becomes the spiritual gymnasium in which our hearts are widened to welcome the God who comes in humility. Pope Benedict XVI captures this beautifully: “*Advent is a journey toward Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.*”

As we make this journey, we remember that Bethlehem is a place of simplicity. The crib is humble, the setting quiet, the signs subtle. Only a disciplined, attentive heart can recognize the King who comes in disarming gentleness. St. John Chrysostom captures the call of this season with profound simplicity: “*Let the soul be a living crib, ready and clean, for Christ to be born in.*”

As we stand on the threshold of this holy celebration, may the light of the newborn Christ scatter all darkness from our hearts and homes. May He strengthen us to be courageous soldiers of faith and tireless athletes of the Gospel. May His peace transform our families, His love bind our communities, and His presence guide our diocese toward deeper unity and holiness.

**Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyous, grace-filled Christmas!**

May the Christ Child be born anew in every heart, and may His hope, peace, and love continue to guide us into the New Year with renewed strength and unwavering faith.

**Rev. Fr. Gwatalo Alex Tep**



# Diocese Vocation Camp – II Held at Holy Cross Parish, Dimapur



The Diocese of Kohima successfully organized the Second Diocese Vocation Camp at Holy Cross Parish, Dimapur, from 3rd to 6th October 2025, under the inspiring theme, "*Here I am, Lord; send me*" (Isaiah 6:8). The four-day camp witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 182 children representing 20 parishes and centres of the Diocese. The programme was further enriched by the presence of 42 Religious Sisters from 23 different congregations and 16 priests from various religious congregations and the Diocese.

The camp commenced with an introductory session on the first day, during which Rev. Fr. Gwatile Alex Tep, Diocese Vocation Promoter, introduced the priests, sisters, and participants, and warmly welcomed everyone. Rev. Fr. John P. M., Parish Priest of Holy Cross Church, Dimapur, extended the official words of welcome.

The inaugural Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Rolson SFX, marking a prayerful beginning to the camp, followed by an orientation rally for the children. The day's formation sessions were animated by Rev. Fr. Daniel SDB, Vice Principal of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Dimapur, who spoke on the theme "*God Calls Ordinary People to Do Extraordinary Things*." The second session was conducted by Rev. Fr. Renthungo Victor, Principal of Holy Cross Higher Secondary School, Dimapur, on the camp theme, "*Here I am, Lord; send me*." Later, the vocation promoters and religious sisters met the boys and girls separately, introducing them to the charism and mission of their respective congregations. The first day also witnessed a solemn candlelight Rosary procession, creating a deeply prayerful atmosphere and entrusting the camp and its participants to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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The second day of the camp was marked by the Holy Eucharist presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. Addressing the children after the Mass, the Bishop encouraged them to remain open to God's call and to respond generously to His will. As a sign of spiritual encouragement, he presented a rosary to each participant. Subsequently, priests and religious sisters interacted with the children in separate groups, sharing insights into the charism and vocation of their congregations. At the end of the day, a discernment adoration was conducted by the SABS Sisters, offering the children a sacred time of prayer and silence to discern the congregation of their choice, guided by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the camp, the participants engaged in various activities, including group games, singing, dancing, and faith-based video presentations prepared by the brothers. The boys were guided and accompanied by Regent Brothers Jerome Metha, Michael Humtsoe, James, and Sonilo from Good Shepherd Seminary, while the girls were cared for by the Bethany Sisters. The smooth conduct of the camp, including food and other logistical arrangements, was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Rev. Fr. John P. M., with the generous support of the parish youth, mothers, sisters, and brothers.

The Vocation Camp concluded on the morning of 6th October with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. Gwatile Alex Tep, Diocese Vocation Promoter, followed by breakfast. The camp proved to be a spiritually enriching experience, helping the young participants to deepen their faith and attentiveness to God's call, while fostering a renewed culture of vocations within the Diocese of Kohima.

*- Vocation Promoter, Diocese of Kohima*



# St. Francis of Assisi Parish Celebrates Parish Feast

It was on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025, the parishioners celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with great religious fervour and devotion. In course of the years, the spiritual life and celebrations have been really a joyful profession of faith. To make the celebration worthy of the day of grace, we organised three days preparatory Tridum with different personalities sharing their reflection on the life of the patron saint each day. On the final day the Capuching Friars from all over the Nagaland-Manipur Mission were invited to join for the Transitus (enactment of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi). It was so beautiful that some friars animated the people with talks and reflections while others sat down in the confessional to prepare the faithful for the long awaited Parish Feast. With such a wonderful preparation the entire parishioners celebrated the Parish Feast with whole hearted participation in the solemn Holy Eucharist presided by Rev. Fr. Kevishe Solomon, Parish



Priest of Holy Redeemer Church Tobi and homily preached by Rev. Fr. Manoj Victor D'Souza the provincial delegate of the Infant Jesus Delegation Nagaland- Manipur Mission. It was so heartening to see the joy and happiness of the people celebrating the parish Feast with great interest, devotion and participation. On the same day 10 children were administered the sacrament of first Holy Communion. We thank the Lord for everything.

- Correspondent

# Bishop Abraham Memorial Tournament Unites Nagaland's Catholic Youth in Sportsmanship and Faith



The 5th *Bishop Abraham Memorial Tournament (BAMT) 2025* was held from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October at St. Joseph's (Autonomous) College, Jakhama, bringing together hundreds of Catholic youth

from across Nagaland for a vibrant three-day celebration of sports, faith, and fellowship. Organized by the Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) and hosted by the Southern Angami Catholic Union (SACU), this year's tournament was held under the theme "Run with Faith, Rise in Glory."



The inaugural ceremony was graced by Nosazol Charles, State Information Commissioner and Advisor to the Catholic Association of Nagaland (CAN), as the Special Guest, and Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, as the Guest of Honour. Charles recalled the inspiring leadership of Late Bishop Abraham Alangimattathil, SDB—the first Bishop of Kohima and founder of CAN—whose vision for youth and lay participation continues to guide the diocese. He urged young people to uphold the values of unity, discipline, and perseverance, both in sports and in life.

In his address, Bishop Thoppil commended the achievements of Catholic youth in academics and public service, announcing diocesan support for two students annually preparing for the Indian Civil Services. He encouraged the youth to pursue excellence, integrity, and leadership in every sphere of life.

A total of 58 teams—30 men's and 28 women's—participated in volleyball and tug-of-war events, including teams of priests and religious. The competitions promoted teamwork, discipline, and camaraderie. Winners in both volleyball categories received <sup>1</sup> 50,000, with runners-up and semi-finalists receiving <sup>1</sup> 30,000 and <sup>1</sup> 10,000 respectively.

Results:

*Men's Volleyball:* St. John Evangelist Church, Khonoma – Champions; St. Paul Church, Phesama – Runners-up.

*Women's Volleyball:* St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Lazami – Champions; St. Francis de Sales, Tening – Runners-up.

*Tug-of-War:* St. Xavier Parish, Kidima – First; St. John Evangelist Parish, Khonoma – Second; St. Joseph's Parish, Tseminyu – Third.

Individual awards recognized outstanding performance and discipline. Among the women, *Best Player* went to Mhiesimenuo Margaret (Khonoma), *Best Spiker* to Niuli Helena (Lazami), and *Best Setter* to Livitoli Agnes (Lazami), while *Best Discipline Team* was St. Joseph's Centre, Songlhuh. In the men's category, Mhiesilieto Edmund (Khonoma) won *Best Player*, Kekhrieselie Kevin (Phesama) *Best Spiker*, Mezhüse Martin (Khonoma) *Best Setter*, and Christ the King Centre, Phuvkiu *Best Discipline Team*.

The closing ceremony was graced by Col. Satya Narain of the 44 Mountain Brigade as Guest of Honour and Dr. John Seyiekhiertuo, State Nodal Officer of AYUSH and President of ACU, as Special Guest. Both emphasized sports as a means of personal growth and resilience. Auxiliary Bishop Jose Puthenveetil of Faridabad also lauded the unity and faith witnessed among the youth.

The tournament concluded with the lowering of the NCYM flag and a heartfelt vote of thanks by Veronica Nriame, NCYM General Secretary. The event reaffirmed the enduring legacy of Bishop Abraham—uniting Nagaland's Catholic youth in faith, sportsmanship, and joyful fellowship.

*- Correspondent*

## St. Ignatius Church Razeba Observes Jubilee Year of Consecrated Life

In joyful observance of the Jubilee Year of Consecrated Life, the Parish community under St. Ignatius Church, Razeba came together on 4th October 2025



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for a spiritually enriching Day of Prayer and Recollection dedicated to the parents and family members of all Priests and Religious Sisters originating from the parish. This sacred gathering was a heartfelt tribute to the selfless service and unwavering commitment of those who have answered God's call to religious life.

The day commenced with a profound recollection talk delivered by Rev. Fr. Christopher Rume, who invited participants to reflect deeply on the grace of vocation and the vital role of families in nurturing faith. This was

followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation, offering a moment of grace and renewal for all present.

The spiritual momentum culminated in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. Anthony Rozii, whose homily stirred hearts and rekindled a sense of mission among the faithful. A felicitation program followed, during which the families of the consecrated were honored for their silent sacrifices and steadfast support. The day concluded with a joyful agape meal, fostering fellowship and unity among the parishioners.

- Correspondent

## Catechism Sunday Observed at SJCK

St. John's Church Kiusam observed Catechism Sunday on 5<sup>th</sup> of October. It was a wonderful event held with exhortation, appreciation given to catechism children, few songs and dances presented on the occasion.

Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu said this year, in the Diocese of Kohima, Nagaland, Catechism Sunday was observed on Sunday, 5th October. It is a significant celebration in the Catholic Church. It encourages parents, particularly elders, to take an active role in teaching their children about Catholicism. Focus on faith formation and living the gospel, he added.

- *Stephen Tishiba*



## Tikhir Community Observes Tsonglak-nyi, Emphasises on Preservation of Tradition



The Tikhir community is celebrating Tsonglak-nyi under the theme "Pojüvilapeinümütsin vi-ei" meaning "Live culturally by tradition," at Kiusam Town from October 9 to 12, with the main celebration held on October 10.

Rev Fr Thomas Toretkiu, in his exhortation on the theme, said that "living culturally by tradition" means embracing and practising one's heritage, values, beliefs, and customs. He emphasised the importance of passing down traditional knowledge and practices to younger generations through dance, music, art, and other creative expressions. **10**



“Our culture is our identity, allowing good values to shape our beliefs,” he said, adding that cultural practices foster community cohesion and strengthen social bonds. He highlighted the values of sanctification, purity, and humility before God as the core of the community’s heritage.

“The feast reminds us of renewal, introspection, and the building of relationships within the community and with others,” he said. Highlighting the traditions of sharing food and caring for neighbours, he said these are beautiful values that must be preserved.

He also cautioned that if the Tsonglak-nyi tradition is not passed on, the community’s identity could fade. Urging the elders to guide the youth, he said the Tikhir people’s unique cultural fabric and heritage should continue to be learned and celebrated.

Speeches were delivered by Teachang, Committee Chairman; T. Thangpong, Head GB; S. Khesang, public leader; Muraimong, Head DB, Kiusam HQ; and MK Shukiu, who spoke on the history and purpose of Tsonglak-nyi.

The celebration began with a prayer led by P. Rangthong, Pastor of KTBC, and will conclude with a closing prayer by Samuel Kurak, Catechist of SJCKT. Contributions were made by dignitaries and attendees, followed by cultural dances and a community feast.

To mark the occasion, a football penalty shootout was organised by Hunter-11, with eight teams participating. The Young Stars team emerged as the winners.

- *Adani David*

## Nurturing Young Minds: Parish - Level Catechism Camp 2025



From 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the parish grounds echoed with laughter, learning, and lively faith as over 100 children participated in the much-anticipated Parish - Level Catechism Camp at St. Ignatius Church, Razeba. This three-day spiritual adventure was designed to deepen the children’s understanding of the Church and to ignite in them a vibrant love for Christ.

The camp was blessed with the presence of dynamic and dedicated resource persons: Rev. Fr. Christopher Rume, Rev. Sr. LishaZholia, and Rev. Sr. Rene Zholia. Through engaging sessions on Church History and the Sacraments, they sowed seeds of knowledge and wonder in the hearts of the young participants.

Beyond the classroom, the camp featured a variety of interactive activities and competitions—from Bible quizzes

and skits to creative art and group games – ensuring that learning was both joyful and memorable. The camp not only strengthened catechetical foundations but also fostered friendships, teamwork, and a deeper sense of belonging to the Church.

- *Correspondent*





# Over 700 compete at CEDOK inter-school athletic meet



The Commission for Education, Diocese of Kohima (CEDOK), organised the All Nagaland Catholic Schools Inter-School Athletic Meet and CEDOK Teachers Award on October 10 at St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Chümoukedima.

According to an update, Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, attended as the special guest for the inaugural ceremony, while Dr. Johnny Ruangmei, joint executive officer, Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA), and ShashankPratap Singh, IAS, principal director of school education, Nagaland, attended the closing ceremony-cum-Teachers Award function as special guest and guest of honour, respectively, along with other dignitaries.

Over 700 students under four categories—junior and senior, boys and girls—from 33 Catholic schools across Nagaland participated in the meet. The athletes competed in various track and field events, including 100-metre, 200-metre, and 400-metre races; 400-metre relay; sack race; obstacle race; long jump; high jump; shot put; arm wrestling; and the open bamboo climbing event.

Rev. Dr. Thoppil, in his address, encouraged the participants to pursue excellence with discipline, unity, and faith alongside their academic pursuits before declaring the meet open.

The track and field events were conducted simultaneously across various locations on the campus. The bamboo climbing event saw 26 teams competing to reach the top. Officials from Dimapur Athletics, Naga Arm Benders, postgraduate students of NEISSR, and several fathers and sisters assisted in officiating the events.

At the valedictory function held in the evening, guest of honour ShashankPratap Singh appreciated CEDOK for fostering holistic education by organising such events and encouraged students to make the best use of opportunities to excel in life.

Special guest Dr. Johnny Ruangmei urged young athletes to participate more actively in sports to nurture a disciplined life and sound mind. He also called upon them to celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship, camaraderie, and healthy competition that define Catholic schools, acknowledging all participants for their perseverance and teamwork.

The CEDOK Teachers Award 2025, comprising a certificate, memento, and cash award, was presented by the guest of honour to six teachers in recognition of their commitment and excellence in education:

- Sarita Gurung, St. John Higher Secondary School, Tuensang
- Adole Rhetsa, St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Viswema

- Ethel, Holy Child School, Burma Camp
- Temjenyangla, Assisi Higher Secondary School, Khermalah
- Khriezomenuo, St. Andrew School, Jotsoma
- Asosü Dominic Pfokreni, St. Mary Cathedral Higher Secondary School, Kohima

On behalf of the awardees, Khriezomenuo expressed gratitude to CEDOK for the recognition and acknowledged students as key to a teacher's journey towards excellence. She reminded teachers of their role in shaping the future of society and encouraged them to teach with heart rather than mind. - **Correspondent**

# **Vestition and First Profession of SABS, Corpus Christi Province**



The solemn celebration of the Vestition and First Profession of the SABS Novices; AshaMarak, Shanglila Agnes T. Sangtam, Maryline Thotri Wungleng, Aitimoni Lamin, Kabita Noatia, Avoti Easter, GracyYanthan and Anita Myrthong was held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 15, 2025 at St. Joseph Parish Chumoukedima. The Holy Mass was presided over by Archbishop Dr. Linus Neli, the Archbishop of Imphal, who was also the main celebrant of the day. During the Sacred Liturgy, the novices were clothed with the religious habit, signifying their total dedication to Christ in the Eucharist. They made their vows of chastity, poverty and obedience in the presence of Rev. Sr. Joyce Thekkumkattil SABS, the Provincial Superior of Corpus Christi Province, Dimapur.

The Archbishop, in his homily, encouraged the newly professed sisters to live their consecrated life with fidelity and joy, drawing strength from the Eucharistic Lord. The ceremony was attended by many priests, religious sisters, family members and well wishers who joined in

thank God for the gift of the Vocation to the Church and the Congregation.

The celebration concluded with a felicitations and a fellowship meal, marking the day as a moment of grace and joy for the entire SABS Family.

**- Correspondent**



# John Yesong Memorial School, Phelungre Celebrates Silver Jubilee

A Silver Jubilee of John Yesong Memorial School, Phelungre, was celebrated on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October. Shri. John TsuliseSangtam, Secretary, Work & Housing Govt of Nagaland, was the Special Guest and Most. Rev. Dr James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Nagaland, was the Guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri. John Tsulise said, "Learning is a lifelong process and the willingness to learn is a choice." He enlightened students through



his life story and hard work, where he had achieved the highest state-level bureaucracy. He appreciated the late John Yesong, a first catechist of the Tseuang district who, along with his late father, had initiated schooling at Loyola Higher Secondary School, Kiphire. He believes hard work lays the foundation, while blessings can provide opportunities, guidance, and support that help navigate challenges. He encouraged students to respect their teachers and strive for academic excellence.

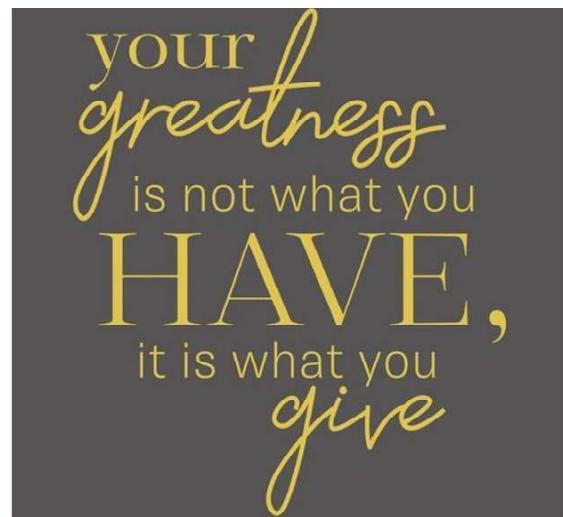
Most Rev. Dr James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, during the thanksgiving mass, appreciated those who worked in the past and present. He said, 'Silver Jubilee celebration is a moment to reflect on achievements, express gratitude, and look forward with hope and optimism.' He said the Silver Jubilee celebration marks a significant milestone, 25 years of unwavering commitment, perseverance, and growth. Renewal is at the heart of this occasion, symbolising a fresh start, revitalised purpose, and renewed commitment. Silver Jubilee celebrations inspire us with the renewal in many aspects of our lives. May this Silver Jubilee celebration bring abundant blessings, joy, and prosperity. He wished everyone continued growth, love and harmony.

Previous to the celebration, Rev. Fr. Philip Magh, a parish priest, welcomed everyone after which there was a blessing and unfurling of the jubilee monolith by Bishop

James and Shri John TsuliseSangtam, followed by the planting of the jubilee Memorial Tree by Special guest, Guest of Honour and ShriJefin Sam, OC, 'D' Coy. There was also the unfurling of the Jubilee Flag by Chumliba, NCS, & Sr. Lucy Jinger SABS, Alumni.

After the Eucharistic celebration, there was a Jubilee felicitation program. Mr Adichum and Ms RonglilaAnar scheduled the items. There were prayer dance, tiny tots presentation, speeches, special songs and a School report by the head teacher, Mr Chothrili. Rev. Fr. Marius Patton, Principal of JYMS, expressed the vote of thanks and Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu said the benediction and blessing of the Jubilee meal. There was a common meal served to all.

- Fr. Marius Patton





# Tikhir Apex Leaders Met Bishop of Kohima



Tikhir leaders of TTC, TSU, TGB'sU, KAGBGs and VDBsU, met Most Rev Dr James Thoppil, a Bishop of Kohima on 17<sup>th</sup> of October at St. Peter's Parish, Kiphire requesting for the viability to create a centre in charge, at Kiusam Town for the education and to bring up the good nature of the people. It could be a blessing to the young recognised tribe said by the leaders. They acknowledged for sending Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu associate priest to Kiusam, it doubled the blessing in creating a centre at Kiusam, added by the leaders.

- *Samuel Kurak*

# Loyola Higher Secondary School (LHSS), Kiphire Celebrates Cultural Day

Loyola Higher Secondary School (LHSS) in Kiphire celebrated its cultural day on Friday on the theme “Embracing culture” with Moses Newmai, district cultural officer (DCO) of Kiphire, as the special guest.

Speaking at the occasion, Newmai said that the celebration was not just about showcasing traditions but about embracing our identity and fostering unity and progress among all communities. Reminding that “culture speaks about who we are and where we come from,” he encouraged the students never to forget their roots, no matter where they live or go.

He also urged everyone to be ambassadors of their cultural heritage, highlighting the virtues of their forefathers such as hardworking, sincerity and honesty. He encouraged the students to preserve and carried forward those virtues.

Newmai further called upon both students and elders to play an active role in preserving and promoting the rich cultural traditions of the region in the spirit of love, peace and unity, while respecting every culture in society.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Fr. Phillip Magh expressed gratitude to the special guest for encouraging the



preservation of culture. He also appreciated the teachers and students for their hard work and dedication and the parents for their constant guidance and support, which made the event a success.

The day featured a wide range of traditional competitions such as war cry, traditional dress display, Morung inspection among the four houses (Red, Blue, Green and Yellow), rice and maize sorting, tassel embellishment, stitching, cock fight, crab race, spear kick, dao sharpening and



cutting, yarn spinning, top spinning and traditional fire-making.

Prizes were given away by the special guest and the school principal after the competitions.

The programme was chaired by Yangthsaba and Apila, while an invocation prayer was said by the school's vice

principal, Fr. Mauris. It was followed by a speech on 'Preserving culture' by Lumlise, the school president.

Other highlights included folktales narration by Atingla, traditional ethnic wear presentation by the primary section and a Sangtam folksong 'Phishu Khidong' performed by the higher secondary students. **- Correspondent**

## Thanksgiving Mass of Rev. Sr. Shanglila Agnes SABS Celebrated at St. Peter's Church, Kiphire.



St. Peter's Parish Celebrates a thanksgiving Holy Eucharist for Rev. Sr. Shanglila Agnes, a newly professed, on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of October. There was a solemn entrance procession with the traditional attire led by the Catholic Women's Association of Kiphire. Rev. Fr. Philip Magh, Parish Priest, was the chief celebrant and con-celebrated by Rev. Frs. Jacob Pallotine, Thomas Torekiu, Marius Patton and Mathew Nini. A Parish priest at the very outside welcomed Rev. Sr. Agnes and family members, guests from Poland, doctors, nurses, a special invited guest, parishioners and congregation.

Rev. Fr. Thomas Torekiu, in his homily, reflected the life of Rev. Sr. Shanglila Agnes in the light of Luke 18:1-6, which speaks of the persistence in prayer.

He said Shanglila, whose name is given after the 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium or 21<sup>st</sup> Century, as she was born in 2001. She is truly blessed to give her baptismal name as Agnes. Agnes originates from ancient Greece, the Greek word "hagnos," meaning "pure" or "chaste". This is associated

with her qualities of life, like sacredness, sacrifice, innocence, modesty, and righteousness. Her call to life is a call to live a life of challenges.

Fr. Torekiu exhorts a life of prayer. Prayer became our

roadmap to the divine, a powerful tool that could navigate a life's journey. Rev. Sr. Agnes' decision to dedicate her life to God as a nun was not a coincidence but a purposeful choice, rooted in her deepening relationship with the Lord through prayer.

He reflected, through the teaching of Jesus in the parable of the persistent widow, that the kingdom of God requires persistence and perseverance in prayer. Sr. Agnes's life embodies this teaching, as she chose to persist in her faith, allowing it to guide her towards a life of service and devotion. Her temporary sacrifices are seen as a pathway to eternal life, a theme echoed in the words of Jesus, "And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?" He added.

During the Eucharistic celebration, Rev. Sr. Lucy Jinger was the commentator. Catholic Youth of SPP melody the occasion, and Sr. Caroline and Sr. Lucy sang the responsory psalm. A gifts offertory procession was initiated by the unit leaders.



At the short felicitation programme, Miss Joyce Sudila compered the programme. A special song was presented by the C.Y.A. of the Parish, A special appearance by the Holy Childhood. Mr Thomas Kiumusu, a Church Secy, exhorted words of appreciation followed by words of gratitude from Rev. Sr. Agnes Shanglila. Mr David

Tsasemong spoke on behalf of the family members, after which a cake-cutting ceremony was held. A congregation was given an opportunity to come and greet her. Rev. Fr. Marius said the benediction and prayer over the meal. An agape meal was served to all.

- **Sr. Tresa SABS**

## Celebrating the Canonization of Saint Maria Troncatti – LFS Kohima

My name is Maria Troncatti. I was born on 16 February 1883, in Corteno Golgi (Brescia), a town in Lombardy, to a large family. At the age of six, I received First Holy Communion. I was exuberant and sensitive towards the poor. Through the Salesian Bulletin, reading the lives of missionaries, I discovered my vocation, to become a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) to bring joy of the Gospel to the ends of the world.



Overcoming the difficulties, I left home for NizzaMonferrato (Asti) on 15 October 1905, to prepare myself to say my “yes” to the Lord in the Salesian mission. I worked as a cook, assistant, and during the First World War, I took a course to become a Red Cross nurse in military hospitals where I served the sick. From Nizza in 1922, I left for Ecuador and, in 1925, I was sent as a “pioneer” in the new mission of the Amazon East among the indigenous population of the “Shuar” and white settlers. They called me familiarly “Madrecita” (which means loving mother) because I was always ready to meet them in their physical and spiritual needs. I took care of their lives. I have become an “artisan” of peace, always seeking ways of dialogue between two ethnic groups often in conflict. For their reconciliation, I offered my life. **(Taken from the Institute Archive)**

On 25 August 1969, while she was flying to Quito, the plane in which she was travelling crashed. Shuar and settlers, as brothers and sisters, said: “My Mother has died. A saint has died!”

The community of Little Flower Convent in Kohima prepared for the canonization of Blessed Maria Troncatti FMA with great fervor. Over a month-long period, the Community Sisters engaged in reading the book “*Beloved Jungles*”, a biography of Blessed Maria Troncattidaily during eveningspiritual reading. On 12

October, 2025, a quiz competition on the life of Saint Maria Troncatti was organized in the hostel. The community Sisters, boarders and house girls observed a novena to Blessed Maria Troncatti. Following the novena, the community entered into a three-day Triduum — an intense phase of spiritual preparation. Prayer services were animated in line with the materials provided by the Province Mission Sector. Each day had a specific theme.

The celebrations unfolded over two days, highlighting two different aspect of community level celebration — parish and convent

**19 October 2025 – Parish Celebration:** At 8:30 a.m., a solemn Eucharistic celebration was held in collaboration with Mary Help of Christians Cathedral Parish, Kohima, marking the canonization day. The Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Charell Jacob, Chancellor of the Kohima Diocese. In her introductory address, Sr. Kethozeno Catherine FMA from Little Flower Training Centre - Novitiate Community reminded the congregation, “Today, she is being declared a Saint in the Catholic Church. Her legacy as an artisan of peace and reconciliation continues to inspire us to work towards peace and understanding.” The liturgy was animated by the Novitiate and Little Flower Convent communities.



After Mass, sweets and souvenirs were distributed to parishioners, adding a festive and joyful spirit to the occasion.

**20 October 2025 – Two Communities hosted Celebration:** The following day, the celebration continued at the convent, hosted by two communities of Little Flower Convent and Little Flower Training Centre – Novitiate. The event was doubly blessed by the gracious presence of our neighboring religious communities, including St. Mary's FCC Sisters and four other communities of all the house Chaplains. Most Rev. James Thoppil, D.D., Bishop of Kohima, presided over the Eucharistic Mass, concelebrated by ten priests. Two Salesian clerics from Don Bosco, Kohima were also present. The felicitation program included a life sketch of Saint Maria Troncatti by the boarders interspersed with short and heart stirring songs which were composed

for the occasion, a poem by Fr. Chetissery Joseph SDB, Rector of Christ King Community, Kohima and an original song by the FMA Novices. Sr. Kazhia Rose Mary, the animator of Little Flower Convent presented a framed portrait of Saint Maria Troncatti to each of the communities present for the occasion. The program concluded with cake-cutting and a fraternal meal, prepared with love and shared in joy.

Although the formal celebration has concluded, the underlying message remains: the canonization is not an end in itself but a beginning. The community affirms that while the event may have drawn to a close, the life and missionary spirit of St Maria Troncatti continues to inspire them into the future. Through service, prayer, action, healing and reconciliation, they commit themselves to live out her example in the context of Kohima and beyond. *- Sr. Manya Marina FMA*

## Marriage Renewal Vows Conducted at St. Thomas Church, Phelungre



St. Thomas Church, Phelungre conducts marriage renewal vows on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October with the theme "Love fully, Live Fully." This program is organised for the first time at STC, Phelungre in view of Golden Jubilee to be celebrated in the Month of December. 2025. There were 72 people who participated in the programme.

A resource person Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu exhorted saying, "Married life in today's world can be challenging, but with the right mindset and strategies, couples can build a strong and lasting relationship." He strongly acclaim few key words like the importance of love, communication, reconciliation, team work and supporting in each could lead to wonderful married life. Practicing open and honest communication and showing appreciation for each other are essential. To live a married life as a sacrament, couples should recognize the sacred bond between them and nurture it with love,

care, and commitment. Regular prayer, attending church services together, and seeking guidance from spiritual leaders can help achieve this. Rev. Fr. Toretkiu concluded that a contented married life requires effort, dedication, and a willingness to grow and learn together. By focusing on these aspects, couples can strengthen their relationship and build a lasting bond. With commitment and love, couples can navigate life's challenges together.

The event was with full of fun and insightful learning. There were party games for couples with the ethical message. In the afternoon high tea was served to all. In the evening a short adoration was conducted by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu and Sr Caroline SABS, after which a marriage renewal vows were taken. A blessed rosary each was exchanged as a sign of love for each other.

*- Simon Anar, Catechist of Phelungre*



# Mass Wedding Vow Renewal Held at St. Peter's Parish in Kiphire



St. Peter's Parish, Kiphire, for the first time conducted a mass wedding vow renewal on the theme "Live your best life in love". According to an update, a total of 132 people participated in the programme, which was an initiative of the parish priest, Rev. Fr. Philip Magh.

In his introduction, he said that the family is the first essential cell of human society, because of which the importance of family life has to be looked after. Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, a resource person, highlighted three topics: challenges of married life in today's world, areas in reaching out as couples, and how to live married lives as a sacrament.

He reflected that married life in today's world can be challenging, but with the right mindset and strategies, couples can build a strong and lasting relationship. He exhorted couples to focus on communication, compromise, and understanding, which involves

practising open and honest communication and showing appreciation for each other.

He stated that living a married life as a sacrament in the light of God involves recognising the sacred bond between two people and nurturing it with love, care, and commitment. This can be achieved through regular prayer, attending church services together, and seeking guidance from spiritual leaders. He further said that to live a contented married life requires effort, dedication, and a willingness to grow and learn together.

The whole-day programme was conducted with fun and insightful learning, including couples' party games, singing, and dancing. In the evening, a short adoration was conducted by Rev. Fr. Philip, Sr. Lucy SABS, and Sr. Caroline SABS, after which marriage renewal vows were taken. A blessed rosary was exchanged by each as a sign of love for each other. - **Fr. Marius Patton**

## October, a Month of Rosary Observes at Kiusam

St. John's Catholic Community, Kiusam begins their journey in saying the rosaries. October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, a devotion Catholics hold dear. We say the rosary to meditate on Jesus' and Mary's life, seeking their guidance and protection. The rosary's mysteries reflect on key events in salvation history, helping us deepen our faith and connection with



God. By praying the rosary, Catholics aim to grow in holiness and seek Mary's intercession.

- **Samuel Kurak**



# A Marian Procession Held at SJCK

St. John Catholic Church observed Marian procession at Kiusam on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Community gathered at St. John School and then proceeded to Church in supplication. Although there were heavy showers of blessing from above, after which a procession was continued in prayers, hymns, and carrying of statue of Mary. Devotion to Mary which unites us in faith to the end. It was wonderful faith strengthening and encouraging. Thanks to everyone who attended the event. Catholics often hold Marian processions on October 31<sup>st</sup> to honor the Virgin Mary, as October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. This tradition celebrates Mary's role in the life of Jesus and the Church, and seeks her intercession and protection.



- Samuel Kurak

# NEISSR Conducts IBM Skill Build Program to Enhance Students' Digital and Employability Skills



The North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR) organized a two-day IBM Skill Build Program aimed at strengthening students' digital competence and employability skills. The sessions were led by Mr. Deepneel Majumdar, Subject Matter Expert and Manager at EduNet Foundation, an experienced academician and IT professional specializing in Cloud Computing, AI, Machine Learning, and Data Science.

On Day 1, Mr. Majumdar introduced participants to the IBM Skills Build Platform, a free global digital learning initiative, guiding them through six foundational courses: Exploring Data, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, Quantum Computing, and Emerging Technologies. Students completed the first module, "Exploring Data," gaining insights into data fundamentals and the role of data-driven decision-making across industries.

Day 2 focused on Artificial Intelligence and Employability  
*Sharing: October-December 2025*

Skills. Mr. Majumdar explained various types of AI—Decision-making, Predictive, Generative, and Data-based AI—and related them to practical applications in daily life and the workplace. A session on résumé writing and career development highlighted key elements of an effective résumé and the importance of a well-crafted cover letter.

The program concluded with an interactive discussion, allowing participants to clarify concepts and share feedback. Held at BAM Hall, NEISSR, Chümoukedima, the event was chaired by Ms. Sani Koshia, with an invocation by Mr. Mhasileto. Dr. Lily Sangpui, Assistant Professor, introduced and felicitated the resource person.

NEISSR expressed gratitude to Mr. Majumdar and the EduNet Foundation for their role in promoting digital learning and career readiness among students.

- NEISSR Desk



# St. Mary's Cathedral Hr. Sec. School Celebrates Parents' Day



St. Mary's Cathedral Higher Secondary School, Lerie, Kohima, celebrated Parents' Day with the theme "Parenting – The Greatest Adventure" at the Mary Help of Christians Cathedral Golden Jubilee Memorial Hall on October 31, 2025. The event was graced by Smti. Kevileno Angami, Commissioner and Secretary, School Education & SCERT, as the Special Guest, and Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, Bishop James Thoppil described parents as "co-creators with God," entrusted with an immense and sacred responsibility. He emphasized that the greatest gifts parents can offer their children are not material possessions but their time, attention, and presence. He urged parents to be grateful to teachers who play a vital role in the holistic development of their children. Reminding teachers of their noble vocation, he said that educators leave an indelible mark on the lives of students. To the students, he encouraged gratitude and respect for parents and teachers — not only through words but also through exemplary performance and responsible behavior. He called on all parents to embrace the "greatest adventure of parenting" with love, service, and sacrifice.

Speaking on the occasion, Smti. Kevileno Angami highlighted that parenting is indeed an adventure—filled with uncertainties and challenges, yet deeply rewarding and joyful. She stressed that every child has potential that can flourish through the consistent support and guidance of parents. Acknowledging the growing concern of children being absorbed in digital devices, she urged

parents to spend more quality time with their children to help regulate their lives.

The Special Guest also underlined three key aspects of parenting: promoting the use of the mother tongue or local dialect at home; upholding traditional values and discipline; and instilling in children the fear of the Lord as the foundation of wisdom and moral strength.

The programme featured a variety of performances, including traditional fusion dances, folk songs, choral pieces, and other cultural items presented by students from all classes as a token of love and appreciation for their parents. Rev. Fr. Anthony Dukru, the Principal, delivered the welcome address, while Rev. Sr. Jessy, the Vice Principal, proposed the vote of thanks.

The celebration concluded with an atmosphere of joy, gratitude, and renewed commitment to nurturing the bond between parents, teachers, and students in the shared journey of education and growth.

- Correspondent

## The Extended Room of SJS Built by SJCC

The St. John Catholic Community came together to build the extended classroom of St. John School on November 5, 2025. In spite of the whole day rain, the community in unity worked hard to complete it. The new classroom will enhance the school's ability to deliver



quality education, aligning with St. John School Kiusam to empower students for excellence. With a focus on compassionate education, the school aims to nurture well-rounded students equipped for success. This achievement highlights the community's commitment to faith, learning, and the development of future leaders. With this added building it will number to 210 meters long class room LKG to Class 7. The new extended classroom benefit the students.

- Samuel Kurak

## Dr. Fr. C. P. Anto Receives Best Researcher Award at the 13<sup>th</sup> Indian Social Work Conference 2025

Dr. Fr. C. P. Anto, Founder-Principal of the North East Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR) and Founder-Director of Peace Channel, has been honored with the Best Researcher Award at the 13th Indian Social Work Conference 2025, organized by the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI).

The conference was held from 6th to 8th November 2025 at Centurion University of Technology and

Management, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in collaboration with the Odisha Professional Social Work Association and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). The National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) is one of the largest member-based organizations of professional social workers in the country, with a network of over 1,000 colleges and universities offering social work education.

Dr. Fr. C. P. Anto's research presentation, titled "Advancing Peace and Conflict Transformation Studies in Social Work in India: Academic Innovation and Community Engagement through the Peace Channel," was selected for the award from among more than 100 research presentations, representing 23 states across 32 panels. The award was presented to Dr. Fr. Anto by Prof. Sanjai Bhatt, President of NAPSWI, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to research in social work education, along with a certificate and a cash prize.

In addition to receiving the award, Dr. Fr. Anto chaired a Parallel Technical Session on the thematic area "Health and Spiritual Health: Issues in the Knowledge Society" on 7th November 2025. He also participated as an expert in a group discussion on "Syllabus, Field Work, and the Inclusion of Emerging Issues and New Topics in



Social Work Education," particularly in the context of recent curriculum revisions under the National Education Policy (NEP).

The NEISSR and Peace Channel family take great pride in his achievement and celebrate his continued commitment to inspiring and empowering others through education, research, and peacebuilding.

- Co-coordinator, IQAC, NEISSR



# A Three-day Retreat held at Christ King Church, Phuvkiu

Christ King Church in Phuvkiu recently conducted a 3-day retreat themed “Encountering Christ,” held from November 7-9, 2025, in preparation for the Feast of Christ the King. Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, a preacher delivered inspiring talks on various topics, including the importance of faith, prayer, and sacraments.

Some of the key highlights of the retreat included discussions on “Why Do You Believe What You Believe?” and “What Does it Mean if God’s Eye is in Your Life?”, which aimed to deepen attendees’ understanding of their faith. Rev. Fr. Thomas also emphasized the significance of marriage as a sacrament, the power of prayer, and the importance of attending church as Catholics.



The retreat also explored the concept of sin and its destructive effects, as well as the importance of confession and reconciliation. Attendees were encouraged to strive for holiness, following the example of the Heavenly Father, and to live the Beatitudes in their daily lives.

On the Second day there was confession helped by 6 priests; viz Rev. Fathers, Jacob, Akhil, Peter Enni,

Mathew Neni, Loyola Anthony and Fr Thomas Toretkiu. They had a fitting preparation for the Feast of the Christ the King. Every who participated had benefited. On the Last day Rev. Fr. Jacob appreciated and thank Fr. Thomas Toretkiu for having prepared them spiritually and to live a life of holiness.

- Fr. Akhil Pallotine

# 5<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony at St. Joseph University, Chumoukedima, Nagaland

St. Joseph University, Chumoukedima, gloriously hosted its 5<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 at the university campus with Dr. GirishPatil.S, Director, ICAR- National Research Centre on Mithun, Medziphema as the Special Guest. This significant academic occasion marked the formal graduation for the UG, PG and Ph.D awardees from over 20 disciplines, where 35 graduates were awarded the Gold medals, 35 with silver medals and 16 were awarded with PhD .

The event commenced with the academic procession, followed by the National Anthem. Rev. Fr. Dr. Michael Arockia Nathan, Rector, MMI Study House delivered an Invocation. The convocation ceremony was officially launched by the Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Dr. J. E. Arul Raj followed by the pronouncement of welcome address by Rev.Sr. Gnanaselvam DMI, DFT-Managing Trustee, the University report was then delivered by Dr. D. Gnanadurai,



Vice-Chancellor after which the ceremony was graced by Most. Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Diocese and Pro-Chancellor, with the keynote address where he reminded the graduates that this event is just the beginning, encouraging them to embrace the future with courage and to learn from every experience. The convocation address was further delivered by the Chief Guest for the event, Dr. Girish Patil, S. Director, ICAR-National Research Centre on Mithun, Medziphema where he commended on the achievements of the university within these few years. He then urged the

students to never stop competing and stated “you are your own friend and your worst enemy” (Bhagavad Gita). In conclusion he stated that “one should always have concern for the society as it serves as the fuel to make you a better individual”. The Chancellor then formally awarded the degrees to the graduates individually, followed by the Administration of Pledge and concluded with the message for continued academic and ethical excellence. The University choir presented a special song to honor the graduates. The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Charles Mhonthung Ezung, Dean of Student Affairs and the event came to a close with the university anthem.

The 5<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony, St. Joseph University concluded with dedication and academic solemnity. The university further expressed pride in their accomplishment in reaffirming the university’s ongoing commitment to academic excellence and holistic education and wished success to the graduates in their future endeavor.

- Correspondent

## Vestition & First Profession cum Golden Jubilee Celebration at St. Leo Church, Kacharigaon

The community of St. Leo Church, Kacharigaon, joyfully gathered on 15 November 2025 to celebrate a momentous day of grace and gratitude. The celebration combined two significant events: the **Vestition and First Profession of Sr. Teresa** and the **Golden Jubilee of Sr. Lilly Maria Provincial Superior, St. Clare Province, Imphal, Sr. Jessin and Sr. Julie** who have completed fifty years of dedicated religious life.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome by Rev. Sr. Lisa, Provincial Superior Nirmal Jyothi Province, Dimapur. Solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, Most Rev. Dominic Lumon Archbishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Imphaland several concelebrating priests, religious men and women, family members, and parishioners participated in the solemn event. The celebration reflected the spirit of the Scripture: “Here I am, Lord; I come to do Your will” (Psalm



**40:8**)—a verse that fittingly captured both the dedication of the newly professed and the lifelong fidelity of the jubilarians.

During the vestition rite, Sr. Teresa received the religious habit, symbolizing her desire to follow Christ more closely in simplicity and humility. With deep faith and devotion, she later pronounced her **Vows**, committing herself to a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the service of God and the Church.



The celebration continued with a heartfelt felicitation of the **three Golden Jubilarians**, honouring their fifty years of steadfast service, prayer, and missionary commitment. Their inspiring testimonies echoed God's constant faithfulness and the joy found in a life fully surrendered to His call. The event concluded with a short felicitation programme and a fellowship meal, marked

by a spirit of thanksgiving, unity, and renewed commitment.

The day was a beautiful witness of God's enduring love—celebrating the new beginning of Sr. Teresa and the glorious milestone of the three jubilarians, all within the warm embrace of St. Leo's Church community at Kacharigaon.

— *Correspondent*

# Ursuline Franciscan Sisters Celebrate 50 Years of Missionary Presence in Northeast India



The Ursuline Franciscan Sisters (UFS) Congregation joyfully celebrated the Golden Jubilee of their presence in Northeast India, marking fifty years of dedicated service, faith-filled witness, and transformative ministry in the region on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.

The celebration commenced with the lighting of the Golden Jubilee candle by the Superior General, Rev. Sr. Milly Fernandes, symbolizing the congregation's continued commitment to their mission. This was followed by a solemn Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist presided over by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima.

In his introductory message, Bishop Thoppil congratulated the Sisters and expressed deep gratitude for their enduring ministry. He prayed that the Lord may continue to bless the congregation with "dedicated, committed, and convinced members to carry forward

the mission entrusted to their pioneers with faith and trust."

During his homily, the Bishop remarked: *"Through your presence, you have brought Good News to those in need, uplifted the poor, healed the brokenhearted, and empowered the marginalized. Whether through education, healthcare, pastoral care, or social work, you have been instruments of God's love and mercy."* Reflecting on the day's readings, he added that the words—"I thank my God every time I remember you"—beautifully captured the gratitude felt by the Church as it celebrates the congregation's 50-year journey. He extended his special wishes to jubilarians Sr. Philomena Correa and Sr. Alice Mary Rego on completing fifty years of dedicated religious ministry.

The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a Jubilee felicitation programme. Rev. Sr. Juliana Pereira,



Provincial Superior, welcomed and honored all special invitees and the pioneering missionaries of the congregation. She also released the Jubilee e-souvenir marking the historic milestone.

The community presented a variety of cultural items in honor of the UFS Congregation and the jubilarians. The novices staged a captivating play depicting the history of the UFS mission—from its humble beginnings, through years of service, to its vibrant growth today.

Fr. Valerian Castelino, Provincial Superior of the Jesuits, recounted the profound history of the congregation's arrival in Nagaland. He shared how, in 1975, at the invitation of Jesuits such as Rev. Fr. Ligoury Castelino, five pioneering UFS Sisters ventured to Meluri Village in Phek District. This marked the beginning of the congregation's mission in Nagaland. He lauded the Sisters for growing "from five tiny seeds to 169 vibrant members with 30 communities across Northeast India."

Addressing the gathering, Sr. Milly Fernandes, the Superior General, thanked the jubilarians for their

unwavering commitment over the past five decades. She emphasized that the story of the UFS in Northeast India is not merely one of presence but of tireless ministry undertaken in challenging and unfamiliar terrains. She acknowledged with gratitude the First Bishop of Kohima, the Jesuit pioneers, and all collaborators who supported the mission.

A particularly emotional moment came when Mr. Shiekutho, a former student of the first pioneering Sisters in Meluri, shared his heartfelt memories. He expressed deep gratitude to the UFS and the Jesuits for sowing the seeds of the Catholic faith in Meluri. He proudly noted that their early efforts have borne abundant fruit, with St. Xavier Parish, Meluri, now expanded to ten villages, and preparing to celebrate its Golden Jubilee on 17 December 2025.

The Golden Jubilee celebration of the Ursuline Franciscan Sisters stands as a powerful testimony of faith, service, and the enduring impact of committed missionary discipleship in Northeast India.

*- Correspondence*

## Pillars for the Church Boundary at SJCK



St. John Church Kiusam members for the first day install the Pillar for the fence on 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2025.

We thanked the Administrators Dbs for clearing the land demarcation. We also thanked the Church community for their dedication and love for their faith. This new boundary serves as a reminder that the church is a sacred space, cherished by all who enter.

This was the first day to work and long way to fence the campus.

As the community comes together to protect their church, they're building a legacy of love and fellowship that will be cherished by future generations. The goodness of their actions will continue to blossom, inspiring others to follow in their footsteps. Kudos to the volunteers who have worked tirelessly. *- James K*



# A Seminar on Catholic Faith held at SJCK



A seminar on “Catholic Faith” was conducted by Rev. Fr. KoktoKurian at St. John Church Kiusam on November 26, 2025. The two-hour session was truly life-breath taking, with thought-provoking and practical topics that deepened the attendees’ understanding and ownership of the Catholic faith. The audience was completely absorbed, with no one even blinking, as Fr. Kokto’s words resonated deeply.

GBs, public leaders and Catholic community gathered to welcome Fr. Kokto and shared updates on the upcoming development of St. John School, Kiusam. Fr. Kokto also took the opportunity to inspect the recently levelled school ground. The event was a grand success, leaving a lasting impact on all who attended.

- **Samuel Kurak**

## Two-day Retreat held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Lazami

A two-day annual retreat was held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Lazami in preparation of the Advent season from November 29th and 30<sup>th</sup> with the theme “Revive us, O Lord”. Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, animated the retreat. Rev. Fr. Paul Inashe, a parish priest and his team organised this programme

The retreat covered various topics, including the significance of attending church as Catholics, understanding Catholic beliefs, the sacramental nature of marriage, servant leadership, and the power of prayer in Christian lives. These themes were designed to deepen participants’ faith and understanding of their Catholic legacy.

According to the parish, the retreat provided an opportunity for spiritual growth, reflection, and community building among attendees. Such events are essential for Catholics to reconnect with their faith and prepare for significant liturgical seasons like Advent.



Rev. Fr. Paul and his team thanked Fr. Thomas for his vigorous energy to retreat in their live and be thankful for many blessings. They also said this retreat was to focus on Advent aligns with the broader Catholic tradition of preparing for Jesus’ birth through prayer, reflection, and community. By exploring these themes, attendees gained a deeper understanding of their faith and how to apply it in their daily lives, they added. - **Fr. Anil Kumar**



# Blessing and Dedication of St. Thomas Church, Tamlu



The Catholic community of Tamlu witnessed a historic moment on 9 December 2025 with the blessing and dedication of the newly constructed St. Thomas Church by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the spiritual journey of the faithful in the region.

The solemn blessing was followed by the Holy Eucharist. In his introduction, Bishop James Thoppil congratulated the community for their unity and commitment in bringing the Church project to fruition. He expressed deep gratitude to all benefactors, with special mention of Deacon Dr. Sherman Kuek from Malaysia, whose generous contribution played a pivotal role in the completion of the Church building.

In his homily, the Bishop reflected on the biblical understanding of "Church," noting that although Nagaland is often referred to as the "land of Churches" because of the prominent place Church buildings occupy in towns and villages, Scripture emphasises the living community of believers rather than physical structures.

Citing St. Paul's letters to the Colossians and Ephesians, he reminded the faithful that "our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." He urged the community to commit themselves not only to building Church infrastructures but, more importantly, to nurturing the spiritual life of the community and individual souls by living the values of the Gospel.

During the felicitation programme, Bishop Thoppil recalled a significant chapter in the history of Catholicism in Tamlu. He noted that in 1910, Fr. Marcellinus Molaz, a Salvatorian missionary, arrived in Tamlu as the first Catholic missionary to Nagaland. Though he came with the hope of a rich spiritual harvest, the seeds he planted did not bear much fruit at the time. With the renewed efforts of the Capuchin missionaries today, the Bishop expressed hope that the community would fully embrace the opportunity before them. Using the metaphor of missing a train but catching the bus, he encouraged the faithful not to let the present moment pass by, but to "ride on with great zeal and commitment." He also acknowledged and thanked the leaders of the community who remained steadfast in faith despite challenges.

The Bishop further congratulated Miss Lilly from the community for clearing the recent Nagaland Public Service Examination (NPSE) and a young man from the village who successfully joined the Indian Army, commending their achievements as sources of pride and inspiration for the community.

Catechist Hubert also shared his personal testimony, recalling that he began his mission in Tamlu on 23 December 1989, sent by the late Bishop Abraham, the first Bishop of Kohima. He expressed joy that through the hard work and cooperation of the Tamlu faithful, the Catholic community has now spread to three villages of the Phom community, marking significant pastoral progress.

In his note of gratitude, Fr. Justin Vineto thanked Bishop Thoppil for his continued support—spiritual, pastoral, and financial—as well as for his consistent visits and guidance. He fondly recalled the Bishop's constant reminder: "In all things, have the purity of intent." Fr. Vineto also extended heartfelt thanks to the pastors, GBs, chairman, community leaders, special invitees, and all who contributed to the success of the celebration.

- Correspondent



# Silver Jubilee of Catholic Women Association, Mon Concludes with Call to Live Faith through Action



The three-day Silver Jubilee celebration of the Catholic Women Association (CWA), Mon, held from 12–14 December 2025, culminated meaningfully on Sunday at the Don Bosco Centre, Mon, marking 25 years of committed service, faith witness, and community building. The Jubilee was celebrated in conjunction with the Konyak Catholic Convention, under the theme “To proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour” (Luke 4:19).

The Jubilee celebration was solemnly inaugurated with the blessing of the Jubilee Monolith by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. Rev. Fr. Francis T. J., Centre In-charge, extended a warm welcome to all the clergy, religious, invited guests, and faithful who gathered for the historic occasion.

The Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist, presided over by Bishop James Thoppil, was the spiritual highlight of the concluding day. In his introduction and homily, the Bishop described the Jubilee as a sacred moment to celebrate, reflect, repent, renew, and rededicate oneself to the mission of proclaiming the Lord’s favour, drawing inspiration from the biblical tradition of Jubilee.

Reflecting on the readings from Isaiah (35:1–6,10), James (5:7–10), and Matthew (11:2–11), Bishop Thoppil highlighted that a Jubilee is a time of hope, healing, and joyful witness. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, he likened the journey of the Catholic Women Association to a desert that has blossomed, becoming a source of comfort and hope to many.

He commended the Catholic women of Mon for being the hands and feet of Christ, especially in a region where the Catholic presence is minimal. Through prayer, active participation in the liturgy, commitment to family apostolate, and charitable works, the Association has strengthened parish life and given a joyful witness to Christian womanhood.

Emphasizing that faith must be lived and not merely professed, the Bishop reminded the faithful that Christian values must permeate daily life and decisions. Citing St. James, he stressed that “faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (James 2:17), urging the women to build their lives on the strong foundation of Christ and His teachings. He encouraged them to remain beacons of hope, drawing strength from the Word of God and the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A felicitation programme followed the Eucharistic celebration, with ShriPakonPhom, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mon, gracing the occasion as the Special Guest.

Rev. Fr. Arokiasamy, SDB, one of the pioneers of the Don Bosco Centre, expressed his deep joy at witnessing the remarkable growth of the Catholic community in Mon—from a small group of three families to a vibrant community of over forty families today. Recalling the early missionary efforts, he paid tribute to Fr. Chacko of the Imphal Diocese and other pioneers whose dedication helped nurture the young Church in the region.



Mrs. Ruokuoheü Roselyn, President of the Nagaland Catholic Women Association (NCWA), conveyed her greetings on behalf of the state association. She exhorted the women to ensure that every action reflects Christ, reminding them that belonging to the Church founded by Jesus Christ is both a privilege and a responsibility. She encouraged Catholic women to live out Gospel values authentically, becoming credible witnesses in society.

The three-day Jubilee celebration featured enriching faith-formation sessions animated by distinguished resource persons. Rev. Fr. KoktoKurian, Director of the Nagaland Catholic Youth Association (NCYA), led sessions on “Catholic Faith” and “Participation: Catholic Social Teachings.” Rev. Fr. Solomon Kevishe, Parish Priest of Holy Redeemer Church, Tobi, spoke on “The Role of the Laity in the Catholic Church.”

- *Correspondent*

## Annual Retreat Held at St. Mary's Church Lozaphuhu



St. Mary's Church, Lozaphuhu recently hosted its annual retreat on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with the theme “Revive us, Oh Lord”. The event saw a large turnout of parishioners who came to rejuvenate their spiritual lives.

The retreat featured talks by Rev. Fr. Thomas Toretkiu, who explored themes such as the importance of knowing God, the significance of church attendance, and the need for reconciliation in one's life. Other topics discussed included the sacraments, living out the beatitudes, and values-based living.

Organized by Rev. Fr. Sivi George, parish priest and principal, the retreat aimed to prepare the community for Christmas and foster spiritual growth. At the end of the event, Mr. Paul Neshekho expressed the community's gratitude to Fr. Thomas Toretkiu for his inspiring talks and for helping them revive their spiritual lives.

The retreat provided a much-needed opportunity for the parishioners to reflect on their faith and reconnect with their spiritual selves. The event was a resounding success, with many participants reporting a renewed sense of purpose and spiritual fulfilment.

- *Sr. Sheena Sebastian MSMHC*

## Foundation Day Celebration of “Mercy Group”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church identifies burying the dead as one of the seven corporal works of Mercy. CCC - 2447 lists the corporal works including burying the dead alongside feeding the hungry giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering homeless and

visiting the sick and imprisoned. Bringing alive this beautiful Christian values and acts ingrained in the Catechism of the Church, The group was founded for specific purpose in the parish community with the name “MERCY GROUP” by the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Paul Inashe Ofm.Cap. on the 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2022. Ever since this purely charitable and voluntary service towards the



dead has been doing such an excellent job. To thank God for this group, the parish community celebrated the foundation day – offering thanksgiving Mass for the members and also acknowledging their service to the living and the death. In response to the questions being asked by the other priests with appreciation and admiration about the ‘MERCY GROUP’, Fr. Inashe expresses his opinion that all other parishes and centres could follow the same and have such group to bring about the required vitality and active life of service and charity among the faithful. Indeed it is faith in action, he says. As CCC 2300

states that “The bodies of the death must be treated with respect and charity rooted in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the death specifically honors God’s Children as temples of the Holy Spirit”. Those parishes/centres who wish to start the same but not able to envision the practical functionality of it can contact Fr. Paul Inashe who gives the seminar on it to set up such group in the parishes/centres.

- *Correspondent*





# NAGALAND CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES FROM

## October - December, 2025

### 1.

#### Young Missionary Volunteers Training Programme (YMVPT):

Five youth from Kohima Diocese viz. Mr. Vilu Victor Pohena, Mr. Heguilung Nriame, Ms. Asang Mary and Ms. Surenshe Caroline attended the training programme from 24<sup>th</sup> September to 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 at North East Diocesan Social Service Society (NEDSSS), Guwahati organized by Indian Catholic Youth Movement North East (ICYM NE) to inspire young people to become missionaries and live out their faith through prayer, sacraments, spiritual formation and service. *Participants from Kohima Diocese with the Director and Lady Animator of ICYM NE & Resource Persons.*



### 2.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop Abraham Memorial Tournament (BAMT):

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Bishop Abraham Memorial Tournament was held from 29<sup>th</sup> September- 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2025 at St. Joseph's College (A), Jakhama under the aegis of Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM) hosted by Southern Angami Catholic Youth Association. The tournament featured volleyball and tug-of-war competitions for both men and women.

*Shri Nosazol Charles & Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima* were



the Special Guest and Guest of Honour for the inaugural ceremony, and *Dr. John Seyiekhrietuo & Col. Satya Narain* were the Special Guest & Guest at the closing ceremony. A total of 58 teams: 30 men's team and 28 women's team participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Bishop Abraham Memorial Tournament.

### 3.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> NCYM Outreach Programme to St. Stephen's Church, Rüsomaon 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2025 on the theme 'Called to Worship, Sent to Serve':

Rev. Fr. Kokto Kurian, Director, NCYM spoke on the theme. The Outreach Programme was joined by the newly formed Diocesan Youth Evangelization team.





## 4.

### **Blessing and Inauguration of Cafè Peregrinî on 1st December, 2025 by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima at Mary Help of Christians, Cathedral, Kohima:**

Cafè Peregrinî is the initiative of Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement (NCYM), a space born out of a vision to empower and financially sustain the Youth movement, shaped and strengthened by the tireless efforts and heartfelt dedication of so many hands and hearts led by the Chief Shepherd of the Diocese.

*The Blessing and inaugural were attended by His Lordship, beloved priests, religious sisters, NCWA President, NCYM Advisor, Youth Leaders and special invitees.*



### **NCYM Upcoming Event**

- 1. Diocesan Youth Leaders Retreat cum NCYM Central Executive Committee Meet 2026 will be held from 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 at Mt. Tabor Retreat House, Kohima.***

*- General Secretary, NCYM*



# May their soul Rest in Peace



**13<sup>th</sup> October, 2025: Mr. Dominic (63 Years)**, the elder brother of Rev. Sr. Rosena PaovumaiSABS (SABS Provincialate, Chümoukedima).

**21<sup>st</sup> October, 2025: Mr. Mezhü-o Marcus Solo**, who served as Treasurer of CAN (2016–2020). He was a devoted Church leader and a guiding presence in the community, he had also been an active leader in youth associations in his earlier years.

**26<sup>th</sup> October, 2025: Rev. Sr. Namita Basumatary FMA (49 Years)**. She worked in Auxilium Convent Thenyizumi (2019-2021) and Mazzarello Home, Dimapur.

**18<sup>th</sup> November, 2025: Mrs. Agathal (87 Years)** the beloved elder sister of Rev. Fr. John S. Kavas (Parish Priest, St. Peter Church Tesophenuy).

**25<sup>th</sup> November, 2025: Rev. Sr. Mother Philomy (65 Years)**, the Superior General of the congregation of Medical Sisters of St. Joseph (MSJ).

**14<sup>th</sup> December, 2025: Rev. Sr. Kurian Bridget FMA (84 Years)**. She served as the Superior of LFS Kohima from 1994-1997.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

It has been more than 2 years that SHARING has not received any New Subscribers. Therefore, please note that we will issue the hard copy of Sharing only to the New Subscribers starting from 1st January, 2025 onwards. All the previous subscription remains cancelled. The soft copy of Sharing will be made available in the “Kohima Diocese” website and other Whatsapp group messages.

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# “Let your Heart Be His Bethlehem”

Deacon Keneisalie Dominic Rülho

To be Ordained a Priest on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2025

St. Dominic Parish, Chiephobozou

As the festive season draws near and the world starts to sparkle with lights, music, and holiday vibes, we're reminded once again of the season that touches our souls. Christmas isn't merely a date on the calendar or a cultural festivity but it is a holy invitation. An invitation to let Christ be born not just in Bethlehem, but in the quiet manger of our hearts.

I remember Christmas in my childhood village, nestled among hills and whispering pines. We didn't have any malls, no glittering reindeer, and definitely no internet countdowns. But we had something richer: warmth, faith, and togetherness.

Our Christmas started way before December 25. Weeks in advance, our home and hearts were buzzing with excitement. We came together not just as a family, but as a village of love - siblings, cousins, neighbors, and friends returning from distant towns. The air was alive with laughter, hugs, and the scent of pine and firewood.

Friends who had been away for months returned, bringing stories, laughter, and the kind of warmth only reunion can bring. Grandparents sat by the fire, their eyes twinkling as they shared tales of Christmases past - of miracles, of kindness, of faith that never fades. But the most beautiful preparation happened within. We prayed novenas with devotion, whispered personal prayers in the quiet of dawn, visited the sick with baskets of food and songs of comfort, and shared whatever little we had to those with even less. Charity wasn't a duty but it was our way of inviting Jesus to join us.

One evening, as I sat around the fire, a grandmother from our village turned to me and asked, “Do you know where Jesus is born?” I hesitated, unsure. She smiled, placed her hand gently over my heart, and said, “Here, every time you let go of grudges, every time you love without strings attachment, every time you help someone out or share your meal - you're reborn, right here and now.”

That moment sparked something eternal within me. Since then, Christmas has never been just a date. It's a heartbeat. A whisper of grace. Every day, we're invited to let Christ's rebirth happen through acts of kindness, mercy and every act of love.

This Christmas, let us not merely remember Bethlehem's stable, but open the stable of our own hearts. For Christ longs not just to be born in history but in you, in me, in every heart that dares to love. As St. Ambrose says “*What good is it that Christ was born of Mary once in Bethlehem, if He is not born also by faith in our hearts?*” The heart is not just a muscle. It is a manger. A sanctuary. A throne. And Christ, the Prince of Peace, seeks no fancy palace rather just a humble heart ready to embrace Him with humility and hope.

The Catechism reminds us that the “*heart is not just emotion yet it is the sacred ground of truth and decision, deeper than impulse, where God longs to dwell*” (CCC 2563). Nelson Mandela tells us that a wise mind and a loving heart make an unstoppable force. Therefore, when we allow God's love to resides in us, our hearts become a place of encounter between God and human.

The Church invites us to be living mangers - cradles of Christ in a weary world. Pope Francis in his document “*Dilexit Nos*” writes “*His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us his love and friendship.*” (12). The heart is presented not merely as a symbol, but as the spiritual dwelling where Christ is born and resides.

So this Christmas, don't just hang up lights on your place but let your heart shine it up with Mary's humility, Joseph's quiet obedience, the shepherds' awe, and the Magi's generous spirit. Because the greatest gift you can give the world is not wrapped in paper but in presence - a heart where Christ is born again, moment by moment, in every act of love. **Let your heart be His Bethlehem. Let your life be His light. Let your soul sing, “Glory to God in the highest!”**

In earlier times, Christmas was deeply spiritual. The season of Advent was a time for fasting, prayer, and preparation not just for a big meal, but for a birth. Families would come each evening to light candles, read scripture, and reflect on the journey of Mary and Joseph. Mass folks walked miles through the cold to gather in candlelit churches. The hymns were solemn, the prayers sincere and heartfelt. The real deal was about what we shared,

not what we got especially our hearts, our humility, our hope.

Today, Christmas has turned into a worldwide show. Cities light up in November, malls echo with pop carols, and social media is flooded with curated images of perfect trees and gourmet meals. The season is longer, louder, and often more commercial. There's nothing wrong with celebration and it's totally fine. Joy is a gift. But somewhere along the way, the birth of Jesus gets lost in the hustle and bustle of consumerism. We exchange gifts but forget the Gift. We decorate our homes but neglect to prepare our hearts.

In many places, Christmas is now more about shopping than shepherds, more focus onselfies than on the Savior. The nativity scene is replaced by inflatable snowmen, and the silence of the stable is drowned out by sales tunes.

*So, how do we reclaim the heart of Christmas? How do we let Christ take root in our hearts in a world that often overlooks Him?* It starts when we step outside ourselves and into someone else's world such as when we sit beside the lonely, feed the hungry, or just give someone a chance to share their story. In those moments, we become the like the soft straw in the manger, softening the world for Christ to rest again. It starts when we strip away the noise and glitter, choosing presence over presents, laughter over luxury, people over products and heart over hardware. In the stillness, we find the sacred.

It begins when we loosen our hearts and let go of old hurts, offering forgiveness not because it's easy, but because peace is the most precious gift we can share and receive. And it begins when we don't wait for Christmas to feel happy, but let it build up slowly with Advent reflections, candlelit carols, and small, quiet acts of kindness that ripple through the world like grace.

Letting Christ be born in our hearts means becoming His Bethlehem not just during Christmas season but every time we pick love over fear, kindness over arrogance, and optimism over despair. That is how Christmas lives on not in the calendar, but in us.

This Christmas, may your heart be the cozy manger where Christ finds room. May your home be filled with laughter, not just from parties, but from a sense of peace. May your present be wrapped in affection, not just wrapping paper. And may your spirit, like Mary's, softly say yes to God's invitation.

Let us not just celebrate Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. Let's make a room for Him in our hearts, our homes, and the world around us.

**Merry Christmas and May Christ be born anew in you.**

## **Mom: The Unsung Hero**

Alphonso Fernandes

A Retired Catholic from Mangalore

Contact : 919833190401

Friends, I am writing a sad, deeply moving story of a middle-class family, which truly touched my heart. Why a sad story at this joyful season? Hold on; it is a sad story, no doubt, but with a happy ending, at Christmas time.

Jamie, aged twenty two, completed his bachelor's degree in Computer Science and wanted to pursue his master's degree at Stanford University in the United States. He was always enterprising and self-centered. His parents, with great difficulty, arranged funds for his smooth passage to California.

While Jamie was busy pursuing his studies, his father, John, aged fifty five, was hit by a speeding truck while crossing the road. He was hospitalized with a broken spinal cord, paralyzed and was in ICU. After undergoing multiple surgeries, he was discharged after a month. All savings were exhausted in settling the huge hospital bills. His mother, Ruth, aged fifty two, decided not to disturb Jamie. So, Jamie wasn't informed of this tragic accident.

As days passed, his condition further deteriorated. John breathed his last in the arms of Ruth. She called Jamie, and from the other end, "Jamie informed his mother that he was unable to come home now, as he was in the midst of his semester exam." She said, "Okay, my son," and put the phone down, sobbing uncontrollably, looking at her dead husband lying on the bed. Neighbours gathered after hearing the news. She called for an ambulance for the funeral service. She had no money at home. So, she borrowed money from a neighbour, to cover the ambulance cost.

The ambulance stopped in front of the church. John's body, wrapped in a shroud, was wheeled inside the church. As Ruth was unable to afford the exorbitant charges for the Undertaker, she decided to give him a shroud burial. John was finally laid to rest.

After a month, Jamie arrived home. She embraced him sobbingly, and said, "Your dad waited till the end to see

## ARTICLES

you. He suffered a lot, my son. After a few days, Jamie informed his mother that she would accompany him to California permanently. To that, she replied, "Thank you, my son, you're now my only hope. Jamie sold the house and transferred all the money in his account. He arranged the visa and tickets and started packing his suitcase. The day arrived to leave for the airport.

Upon arrival at the airport, Jamie took his mother to the waiting lounge in front of the check-in-counter and asked her to sit there with her cabin bag, while he would check in the other baggage. Over an hour passed but there was no sign of Jamie. No passengers were seen around her. Her welled up eyes desperately searched for her son. She heard the final call announcement for Air India flight AI179 departing to California. Panic set in. Still there was no sign of him. She froze in her seat not knowing what to do. The boarding gate closed.

An airline staff member approached Ruth, and asked her, "Do you need any help, and why are you waiting here?" Ruth replied, "My son was supposed to pick me up." The airline staff member then asked her, "Can you please show me your ticket and passport." Ruth opened her handbag and handed over the documents to her, who then asked Ruth to follow her to the counter. She asked, "What is your son's name?" Ruth replied, "Jamie D'Souza." After checking the manifest, she sadly informed her, "Your son has already boarded the flight, which departed just ten minutes ago." After hearing this, Ruth stood there shocked and speechless, tears rolling down her cheeks. The airline staff member slightly brushed her shoulder, offering a glass of water. When Ruth regained her composure, she said, "Jamie, why did you do this to me?" Despite all the embarrassment, she prayed for his welfare and safe journey.

As she was leaving, the airline staff member approached her again, and said, "Ma'am, you still have a valid ticket and visa. We can put you on to the next flight tomorrow." To this, Ruth replied, "My son, Jamie, whom I truly loved all my life, is now a grown up man. He doesn't need extra baggage to carry." Stunned by her words, the airline staff member saw her slowly walking towards the airport gate, totally devastated.

Despite losing everything in life, she took courage and managed to get admission to the old age home. She worked tirelessly and took care of other residents, giving a helping hand to the Sisters.

In mid October 2018, a church group visited the old age home. Jamie's friend, Philip, aged 32, who was part of the group, spotted Ruth standing among the residents.

*Sharing: October-December 2025*

Seeing Philip, she quickly covered herself and disappeared from his sight. After a while, Philip approached Ruth, and said, "Why are you hiding from me, and why are you here?" Ruth replied, "Fate, my son. I lost Jamie to this materialistic world. As long as he is happy, I have no regrets." She then narrated her story to Philip.

Before leaving, Philip approached the Sister-in-Charge, and asked whether he could take Ruth home. She hesitated at first, and then asked him to come back again to complete some internal formalities. She also informed Philip that adult adoption is illegal in India, but we will find some ways. In the meantime, she will check with Ruth whether she is okay and ready to be part of your family.

Finally, Philip brought home his mother, Ruth, on Christmas Eve. He had two beautiful children, a boy aged five and a girl aged three. He said to them, "Listen up, I present you 'Grandmom' as a special Christmas gift." Hearing this, her eyes filled with tears of joy, and with folded hands, slightly bowing down, she said, "Thank you, my son. You gave me your beautiful family as a return gift," and kissed his forehead. The children came running, hugging and screaming, "Merry Christmas, Grandma." The air in the room was filled with joy and happiness. Ruth stood there right in front of the crib and saw Baby Jesus lying in the Manger. She said, "Thank you, Jesus. You have been very kind to me," and bowed down to kiss Baby Jesus. She then turned to her newfound children and grandchildren, and wished them, "Merry Christmas."

### Summary/Overview:

The story portrays a powerful message about sacrifice, forgiveness, and a true meaning of family and compassion. The narrative beautifully captures the resilience of Ruth and the profound selflessness of a mother's love and endurance, contrasted sharply with Jamie's self-centered actions.

This Christmas Season makes it more joyful and meaningful with Philip's compassionate act provides a beautiful and hopeful conclusion. It also emphasizes that family is defined by love and care, not just blood ties.

### Moral of the Story:

A mother's heart always vibrates with, radiates, and embodies selfless love, sacrifice and forgiveness.

### A Humble Appeal

Please take very good care of your parents, and don't ever leave them vulnerable at this age.

Make no mistake. "What you sow, so shall you reap."



# Representation of Kohima Diocese at the Family Commission, NEIRBC Annual Meeting 2025 – Plan & Strategies at the Regional Level

The Annual Meeting 2025 on “*Plan & Strategies at the Regional Level*” organized by the Family Commission, North East India Regional Bishops’ Council (NEIRBC) was held from 15th to 17th October 2025 at Inspiration, Joyti, Kharghuli, Guwahati, Assam. The Diocese of Kohima was represented by Sr. Rita MSMHC, Mr. Mengukhrietuo Marcus Dzüvichü, and Mr. Zasi Stany Rume.

The meeting commenced on 15th October with the arrival and registration of delegates. The Holy Eucharist, celebrated by Most Rev. Bishop Joachim Walder, Chairman of the Family Commission, NEIRBC, marked the official opening. During the Mass, Mr. Mengukhrietuo Marcus Dzüvichü had the privilege of proclaiming the First Reading. This was followed by an ice-breaking and introductory session led by Rev. Fr. George Jarain, Regional Secretary of the Family Commission.

The second day began with Morning Prayer and Holy Mass, again presided over by Bishop Joachim Walder. After breakfast, Rev. Fr. George Jarain presented the annual reports from the dioceses covering September 2024 to August 2025 and outlined the Vision and Mission of the Family Commission:

- Vision: Christ-centred, loving, joyful, witnessing families and nurturing life.
- Mission: To build vibrant, faith-filled Catholic families across North East India, following the model of the Holy Family of Nazareth — by teaching faith and moral values, accompanying families in times of crisis, and deepening Catholic family spirituality.

Subsequent sessions focused on *Plans and Strategies at the Regional Level*, facilitated by Fr. George Jarain, in the presence of Bishop Joachim Walder and Rev. Fr. Arul Raj Gali, CSC, Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Family.

In the afternoon, Fr. Arul Raj Gali conducted enriching sessions on pastoral development, coordination with regional commissions, and Remote Marriage

*Sharing: October-December 2025*

Preparation. The session highlighted the three stages of preparation — *Remote, Proximate, and Immediate* — and emphasized the role of the Church and community in nurturing couples for Christian marriage. Key teaching materials such as YOUCAT and DOCAT were discussed as vital tools for faith formation and family catechesis.

The final day, 17th October, opened with Morning Prayer and Holy Mass presided over by Bishop Joachim Walder. Fr. Arul Raj Gali then delivered two thought-provoking sessions on *Family, Vocation, Conscience & Love* (based on YOUCAT) and the CCBI Pastoral Plan, focusing on the journey towards a synodal Church mission, strategic planning, and pastoral priorities for the family apostolate.

The meeting concluded with a feedback session, fellowship lunch, and departure. The representatives from Kohima Diocese expressed that the gathering was both spiritually enriching and pastorally enlightening, providing deeper insights into:

- Strengthening Catholic family life,
- Enhancing strategic pastoral planning, and
- Promoting collaborative evangelization efforts across the dioceses of North East India.

It was indeed a blessed opportunity for the Kohima delegation to participate, learn, and contribute to the collective mission of building Christ-centred families rooted in faith, love, and service.

*- Mr. Mengukhrietuo Marcus Dzüvichü*





# Kohima Diocese Participates in 2<sup>nd</sup> Novena for the Great Jubilee Year on the Theme “CHILDREN”

The Diocese of Kohima had the privilege of taking part in the 2nd Novena in preparation for the Great Jubilee Year, held from 21st to 23rd November 2025 at Don Bosco College, Chapaguri. Organized with the inspiring and meaningful theme “**CHILDREN**,” the programme brought together student representatives, coordinators, and animators from various dioceses across the region.

A team of seven students represented the Kohima Diocese, accompanied by **Sr. Mariyam Chothe, MSMHC**, Coordinator of YCS, Kohima Diocese; **Ms. Silvia Shiveine**, Animator; and **Ms. Angelina Thejakhrinuo**, Animator.

Throughout the three-day gathering, participants actively engaged in a range of spiritual and formative activities including the Holy Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration, animation sessions, as well as creative and reflective exercises centered on the dignity and role of children in the life of the Church. The programme offered a meaningful platform for prayer, sharing, and growth, nurturing both faith and fellowship among the young participants.



During the event, the group also had the honour of joining the **Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Erection of the Diocese of Bongaigaon** and the **Silver Jubilee of the Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. Thomas Pulloppillil, DD**—a momentous occasion celebrating his dedicated pastoral leadership and service.

The Kohima Diocese expresses its heartfelt gratitude to **Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil**, Bishop of Kohima, for his constant encouragement, guidance, and support. His trust and commitment to fostering the faith of young people have enabled them to witness, learn, and grow through such enriching experiences.

- Correspondent

## Governor & Chief Minister Grace Closing Function of Mizoram Catholic Church Centenary Celebrations

Mizoram, Governor General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd), and Chief Minister PuLaldothoma today jointly attended the grand closing ceremony of the year-long Mizoram Catholic Church Centenary Jubilee celebrations held at Bishop’s House Compound, RamtharVeng, Aizawl on 30 November, 2025.

In his address, Governor General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh described the completion of 100 years by the Catholic Church in Mizoram as a deeply joyous and significant milestone. He paid tributes to the early missionaries who, a century ago, brought not only the Gospel but also education, healthcare and community development to the people of Mizoram. “The visible fruits of their labour are evident today in the unity, peace



and mutual respect that have become the hallmark characteristics of Mizoram society,” he said.

The Governor lauded the Catholic Church for its outstanding contribution towards building the social, spiritual and moral foundations of the state. He particularly highlighted its exemplary work in social service, healthcare, education, inter-church harmony and



youth development. Calling upon the Catholic community to continue its mission with renewed vigour in the century ahead, he urged greater engagement of youth, effective use of digital platforms, continued promotion of peace and unity, and enhanced commitment towards serving the poor and marginalised sections of society.

Chief Minister PuLalduhoma extended warm greetings and heartfelt felicitations to the Catholic Church and its entire congregation on this historic occasion. He gratefully recalled that the very first non-government high school in Mizoram, St. Paul's High School, was established by the Catholic Church. "Because of the pioneering efforts of the Catholic Church, Mizoram today boasts some of the finest educational institutions in the state and the country, many of which consistently rank among the best in India," he stated.

The Chief Minister also praised the Church's compassionate service towards the underprivileged, noting the remarkable work carried out through the ZoramEntu Pawl (ZEP) and other initiatives. He acknowledged that many distinguished Mizo leaders, administrators and achievers in various fields have emerged from the Catholic community. On behalf of the people of Mizoram, PuLalduhoma expressed profound gratitude to the Catholic Church for its century of selfless service and invaluable contributions to the state.

The programme was also attended by the Minister for School Education, Dr. Vanlalthlana.

The Catholic Church in Mizoram was formally established on 1st February 1925. At present, it has a membership exceeding 20,000.

- *Correspondence*



*Sharing: October-December 2025*

## Pope at Audience: Advent Teaches Us to Wait in Active Hope

At a special Jubilee Audience on Saturday, December 7, 2025 Pope Leo XIV emphasised that the Advent Season invites Christians to practise active waiting—a hopeful engagement that prepares hearts for Christmas and recognises Jesus' presence in daily life.

Delivering his catechesis, the Pope said Advent calls believers to stay attentive to the "signs of the times", noting that preparing for the Lord's coming requires effort and awareness. He stressed that the fulfilment of creation and its redemption is not a passive expectation. "God always seeks to involve us in His work," he said, adding that participation lies at the heart of Christian hope. "God involves us in His story, in His dreams. To hope, then, is to participate."

Reflecting on the Jubilee theme Pilgrims of Hope, Pope Leo XIV insisted its message must endure even after the Jubilee concludes at Christmas. He urged Christians to journey through life with hope, not by standing idle "with our hands in our pockets", but by actively taking part in God's mission.

Christians, he said, are called to "read the signs of the times", recognising God's action in historical events—an insight highlighted by the Second Vatican Council. God is not distant from the world, he explained. The Incarnation teaches believers to seek Christ "in the realities of life", with intelligence, heart, and sleeves rolled up.

The Pope pointed to the example of Alberto Marvelli, a young 20th-century Italian member of Catholic Action. Marvelli dedicated himself to rebuilding Italy after the devastation of the Second World War and ultimately lost his life when he was struck by a military truck while cycling to a rally. His witness, Pope Leo XIV said, shows that the world improves when people willingly give up comfort and choose what is good. "This is participation," he added.

Concluding his address, the Pope invited Catholics to examine whether they truly place their talents at the service of others and the Kingdom of God. Active hope, he said, is a divine gift. "No one saves the world alone. Not even God wants to save it alone: He could, but He does not want to, because together is better."

- Courtesy: Vatican News

# *Sponsor's Column*

## *Greetings from Sharing!!!*

We remain deeply grateful for your gracious support and time. Your inspiring journey—from strong family foundations to your life of faith, your achievements as a model featured in India's Next Top Model, and your growing influence on social media—continues to motivate many, especially the youth.

### ***1. Could you tell us about your family and the ways in which they have shaped your character, values and outlook on life?***

I come from a very humble family. My parents got married at a very young age and did the best they knew how to do with what they had. They may not have been very religious in a conventional sense, but they were deeply sincere, hardworking, and rooted in strong values. That itself became a lesson for me growing up. My brother and I were raised in a Catholic school and later spent our growing up years in a convent hostel system. Daily Mass became part of our routine, almost unintentionally at first. At that age, we may not have fully understood the depth of it, but those years planted something steady within me. Looking back now, I realise how much those early experiences shaped my sense of discipline, reflection, and faith. I am deeply grateful for that foundation.

### ***2. How would you describe your faith journey, and how has it guided and strengthened you through personal or professional challenges?***

My faith journey has been very real and evolving. It has not always been perfect or easy. There were phases where faith felt natural and comforting, and other times when I questioned, struggled, or simply felt tired.

During my most difficult personal moments, faith became less about answers and more about holding on. Prayer gave me the strength to sit with

discomfort, to slow down, and to trust even when things did not make sense. It reminded me that I do not have to control over everything, and that surrender is sometimes the greatest strength.

### ***3. What inspired you to step into modelling and the digital space as a social media influencer, and how did your path unfold toward India's Next Top Model?***

Modelling began as a form of self expression for me. I was drawn to creativity, movement, and storytelling more than the idea of fame.

Over time, I realised that this space also carried responsibility, especially when people begin to look at you or relate to your journey.

India's Next Top Model was a turning point. It tested my resilience, confidence, and emotional strength. The experience taught me how to show up fully, even when I felt unsure. It helped me understand who I am beyond appearances and external validation.

### ***4. Which experiences, whether uplifting or challenging, have had the most profound impact on your development as a model, influencer, and as a person?***

Some of the most defining moments in my life came through challenges rather than achievements. Experiences of loss, betrayal, and emotional exhaustion forced me to pause and reflect deeply on who I am and what truly matters to me.

At the same time, moments where someone shared that my work or presence helped them feel calmer, understood, or inspired were incredibly grounding. Both the difficult and uplifting experiences shaped me into someone more aware, compassionate, and honest.

**5. Working in the dynamic world of fashion and media, how do you remain authentic, spiritually grounded, and faithful to the values you were raised with?**

I try to remain honest with myself above everything else. The industry can be fast and demanding, but I consciously remind myself of where I come from and what I stand for.

Faith helps me pause and realign when things feel overwhelming. I do not aim to be perfect, but I do try to be sincere. Staying grounded for me means choosing peace over constant approval, and authenticity over performance.

**6. What message or guidance would you offer to young people who look up to you, especially those striving to follow their dreams while remaining rooted in faith and good values?**

I would tell young people that it is possible to dream big and still stay rooted. You do not have to compromise your values to succeed.

Faith does not stop you from growing. It helps you grow with clarity and patience. Trust the process of your life, even when things move slowly. Be kind to yourself, stay honest, and remember that setbacks are often lessons shaping you for something deeper.

**7. Any final word of encouragement or reflection you would like to share with the readers of Sharing?**

Life is not always smooth or predictable, but faith teaches us how to remain steady within it. Even during uncertainty, there is meaning and grace at work.

I hope readers are reminded that growth does not always come loudly. Sometimes it comes quietly, through reflection, resilience, and trust.

Wherever you are in your journey, you are not alone. Blessed Advent seasonal.



## NEWS IN PICTURES



**11<sup>th</sup> October, 2025**  
Graduation Day of Bosco College of  
Teacher Education Dimapur



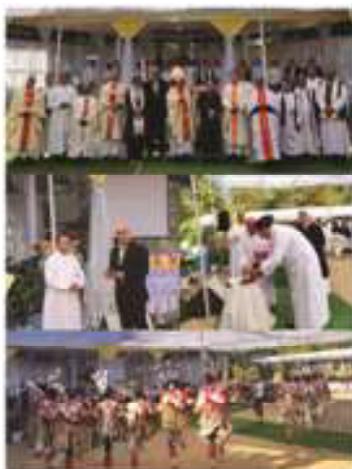
**26<sup>th</sup> October 2025**  
Diocesan Annual Eucharistic Procession at  
Mary Help of Christians Cathedral



**8<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
Silver Jubilee Celebration of Bishop  
Abraham Memorial School Phek



**16<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
Confirmation conferred to 188  
faithful at Christ King Parish  
Kohima



**11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
Silver Jubilee celebration of St. Luke  
Global Holistic Health Centre, Jalukie



**12<sup>th</sup> December 2025**  
Bishop addressing the  
gathering of the State  
Advent Christmas  
Programme





SHARING  
EXTENDS PRAYERFUL  
WISHES TO  
KELUSHA GLORIA TEP



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 @Gloria Tep Rengma